

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method, performed by a computer system, for collecting network usage data about users accessing a network and resources thereon without associating personally identifiable information with the usage data, comprising:

obtaining an identifier at a network service provider representing one or more users of a computer network;

creating an anonymized identifier using the identifier obtained from the network service provider;

collecting data being transmitted across the computer network at a collection engine connected to the network service provider; and

~~associating the anonymized identifier with the collected data through the collection engine if the collected data is sent to or from the one or more users to create a transaction record; and~~

updating a profile record in a database for each anonymized identifier based on the data collected by the collection engine, wherein the data indicates a set of communications for a session between a host and the one or more users that are identified by the anonymized identifier.

~~storing the transaction record by the collection engine in a database separate from the network service provider.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained identifier is a Mobile Subscriber Integrated Services Digital Network (MSISDN) number.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained identifier is a static Internet Protocol (IP) address.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the anonymized identifier is created by applying a one-way hashing function to the obtained identifier.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the anonymized identifier is created by applying a one-way hashing function to the obtained identifier and a security key.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Secure Hashing Algorithm 1 (SHA-1).

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Message Digest 4 (MD4) algorithm.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Message Digest 5 (MD5) algorithm.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Digital Encryption Standard (DES).

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of obtaining an identifier representing one or more users of a computer network includes:

receiving packets at the network service provider sent by an authentication server;
and

extracting an identifier at the network service provider from the received packets.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the authentication server is a RADIUS authentication server.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the received packets are RADIUS authentication packets.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the authentication server is a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said collection engine is a passive device, and further comprising monitoring network traffic, collecting data about network transactions and recording the data in a database.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising creating online behavioral profiles unassociated with individual users, with the collection engine.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein multiple collection engines monitor network traffic, collect data about network transactions and record the data in a database, and further comprising, configuring and managing said multiple collection engines and aggregating data collected therewith through the use of an aggregation server.

31. (Canceled)

32. (New) A computing device for aggregating information about use of computer networks, the computing device comprising:

one or more network interfaces that receive network packets from a plurality of computer servers that describe use of a respective computer network; and

a processor that extracts data from the network packets, aggregates the data from different networks for a session into second data that describes use of a plurality of computer networks during the session, and stores the second data in a database.

33. (New) The computing device of claim 32, wherein the plurality of computer servers comprises internet service providers.

34. (New) The computing device of claim 32, wherein the second data comprises one or more identifiers that anonymously identify a user and associated information about the behavior of the user on the plurality of computer networks.

35. (New) The computing device of claim 32, wherein the second data comprises information relating to transactions that occur online.